

Promises of God

8. Encouragement



Psalm 31:24 "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD."

Meaning: To encourage is to give courage to, or to give or increase confidence of success. All of us from time to time need encouragement. Some of the greatest Christians in the Bible battled discouragement, including David, Elijah, and John the Baptist. Both people and circumstances can be discouraging, but God is there to encourage us.

Application: "David encouraged himself in the LORD his God" (I Samuel 30:6). When discouraging times come, the first place we should turn is to God. In our text, God promises to strengthen the hearts of "all ye that hope in the LORD." The word "hope" here means to wait. The New Testament speaks of the patience of Job. He is an example of one who received encouragement after he waited on God.

Other Verses for Study: Psalm 27:10; 46:1; 138:7; Isaiah 41:10; John 14:1, 27; II Corinthians 4:8, 9; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 4:6-8; Hebrews 10:35, 36; I Peter 1:6-9

1. What two things can be discouraging? _____
2. What and when was the last verse you memorized? _____
3. God promises to strengthen the heart of whom? _____

"Don't look at times of testing and be bitter; don't look away from them and refuse to face reality; look through times of testing and see God."